Computerised Lottery

1605. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the multinational companies plan to install computerised lottery in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the same by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The lottery trade in the country is conducted by the State Governments in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Central Government and the Supreme Court. The multinational companies do not qualify under the guidelines.

[English]

Percolation Ponds

1606. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals from Tamil Nadu and other States for the formation of percolation ponds (check dams) in forest lands for the agricultural purposes are lying pending for the Central approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to clear such proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Languages in Eighth Schedule

1607. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government has proposed to include Maithili and Bhojpuri languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Representations for inclusion of several languages, including Maithili and Bhojpuri, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India have been received from various quarters. A Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Official Language) in order to evolve a set of objective criteria with reference to which all such proposals can be examined and finally disposed of.

[English]

Dry Land Agriculture

1608. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to promote the dry land agriculture in the drought prone areas in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) Promoting *in situ* soil and water conservation, crop demonstrations for popularising new crop varieties, innovative management practices, pasture development and afforestation etc. has been under implementation in the State since 1972-73. The scope of the Programme has been enlarged since 1995-96 which now covers 47 blocks in five districts of Orissa namely Bolangir, Kalahandi, Dhankanal, Phulbani and Sambalpur. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), an area of 3.89 lac ha. located in 258 watersheds, has been covered, including areas located in drought-prone districts. This Scheme promotes moisture conservation and suitable farming systems. The State Government is also promoting watershed management, *in situ* conservation of rain water, suitable agronomic measures and demonstrations in association with ICAR Institute and State Agriculture University.

Rice Producing Areas of Orissa

1609. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of the rice producing areas in Orissa particularly in the tribal and backward areas of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : The rice producing areas in Orissa include all the districts having area coverage of varying degree. The names of tribal and backward rice producing areas include the districts of Bolangir, Balasore, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal (Phulbani), Keonjhar, Korapur, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundergarh of the State.

Vegetable Oil Products Order of 1975

1610. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :